

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
March 13, 2014

Present: Knox, Coughlin, Roberts, Milius, Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by chair Knox.

The minutes from January 9, 2014 were accepted on a motion by Roberts/Milius.

Walton reported on the single-family service. The number of complaints from residents has continued to drop to an acceptable level. The recycling rate for both January and February was 36%. Walton met with Willimantic Waste Paper drivers and management to review their operations and discuss outstanding concerns. Willimantic Waste Paper would like to begin using a split body truck that can collect both trash and recyclables. With reservations about the ease of accidentally mixing together the different streams, staff agreed on the condition that if the recycling rate dips below 36%, the use of the split body will be re-evaluated. Willimantic Waste Paper requested moving some of Tuesday's and Wednesday's route onto a new Friday route. The new route will need to be reviewed by staff and coordinated with the quarterly trash bill inserts before being implemented.

The multi-family contract has been revised to include recycling dumpster service along with recycle carts. The service will be bid before the end of March. At the May 8, 2014 SWAC meeting, the committee will review the bid results.

The committee discussed progress on zero waste actions. Knox and Ames received the sample composters, but they have not been tested out due to an extreme winter. Once the Green Cone bio digester and Garden Gourmet compost bin have been given a trial run, the committee will decide whether to sell them in conjunction with composting workshops. Walton, now serving on the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition's (CRC) board of director, has begun tackling the state regulations that prohibit small compost operations. The CRC is working on developing three transfer station compost demonstration projects that will accept food waste. The projects would collect data and best management practices relevant to Connecticut, in order to demonstrate their efficacy to state regulators. The Mansfield transfer station has been selected as one of the pilot sites. The Dog Lane Café and Farmer's Cow are two businesses that might be interested in participating in the pilot. Knox noted that the City of Middletown's zero waste pledge could be a useful way of promoting waste prevention activities. Knox added that it is worth promoting the pay-as-you-throw trash service as a way to prevent and reduce waste.

Although the Mansfield schools were notified about Mansfield International Clean Up Day, April 2, 2014, Walton has not received any response of interest. She will send another e-mail notice to the schools.

Rid Litter Day will be scheduled for the Saturday after spring weekend, May 3, 2014. Knox volunteered to contact the residents who participate in Adopt A Road. Walton will send her an updated list.

The committee reviewed chapter 5 of the draft Mansfield Tomorrow plan. They were in agreement with Walton's recommended edits, which will be submitted to staff working on the Mansfield Tomorrow project.

Walton reported that she would like to initiate a community "repair clinic" where residents bringing in small items in need of repair are matched up with a repair person. First, individuals who know how to make repairs need to be recruited to volunteer their skills for a few hours a month. Coughlin suggested contacting individuals

who are involved in ham radio. Members asked Walton to look into liability issues.

The transfer station is now set up to accept waste vegetable oil. Walton will put a notice in the April trash bill inserts. Walton applied for a Keep America Beautiful grant for 50 interior Slim Jim recycle containers. UConn Give and Go is scheduled for May 7 through 11. Plus, WAIM and Celeron Square Apartments have agreed to work together on Memorial Day weekend when most of their tenants will be moving out. WAIM will park a truck at the apartments and Celeron Square staff will promote the collection of reusable items. Volunteers will be needed to help with screening incoming donations and packing the truck.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator